Decommissioned caCORE 3.x APIs FAQs

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Where can I get authoritative information about the decommissioning of caCORE 3.x APIs?

On this NCI Wiki page

What are the current production versions of the caCORE tools?

The current version of the services previously bundled as "caCORE" are now standalone services for each product. Each has its own development and release cycle, reflected in the product release numbers.

- caDSR API: 4.0
- LexEVS API: 5.0
- caBIO API: 4.3

The current versions of the toolkits for creating caCORE based APIs are:

- caCORE Software Developers Toolkit (SDK): 4.1.1
- Common Security Module (CSM): 4.1
- Common Logging Module (CLM): 4.1

These are available on the NCI CBIIT Download site

What quality assurance tests were performed to ensure that the new APIs would work?

The QA plan for all NCI products involves quality assurance testing by QA Engineers. Test plans are created for each release and results are posted to GForge. Critical bugs are entered into GForge and fixed, then the product is retested. Any bugs identified during testing that won't be fixed are documented in Release Notes along with the suggested Workaround.

The caCORE and caDSR API test plan can be found on GForge. This document group includes caDSR API 4.0.0.0, caCORE 3.1 and caCORE 3.2 caDSR APIs test plans.

caCORE 3.1 and caCORE 3.2 have caBIO APIs bundled together. The test plans for the portion for caBIO APIs can be found on GForge.

What is the policy statement governing backward compatibility across releases?

The following is the current policy pertaining to backward compatibility in the NCI CBIIT Core Infrastructure Group. We are open to customer needs and suggestions, particularly as more dependencies develop, and will give serious consideration to customer comments in this area as we move forward.

"Any kind of change is acceptable with the release of a new major version: changes to public APIs, deletion of constants/enumerations, deletion of deprecated methods, etc. There is no guarantee of backward compatibility with a major version, and any change that breaks backward compatibility must be denoted with an increment to the major version."

The policy statements are in the GForge folder for NCICB SCM Initiative. The document describing backward compatibility across releases is

What is NCI's policy on keeping deprecated versions operational?

This is described in the NCI CBIIT Technology Stack SOP.

"Approximately every twelve months (coordinated with official release dates), the deprecated stack is retired, and applications running on it are migrated to the future stack."

Again, we are open to customer needs and are willing to make modifications to the policy going forward if warranted.

What is the best way to keep up to date on these kinds of announcements in the future for EVS and caDSR?

You should subscribe to the appropriate list servs from the NIH Listserv page, and you should join and monitor the "News" page for the GForge projects you are interested in.

NIH Lists

- caCORE Users
- EVS
- caDSR
- caBIO
- All NIH lists

NCI GForge projects

- EVS GForge Project Map
- caDSR GForge Project Map

What steps did we take to notify customers of the pending decommissioning of caCORE 3.x?

Notifications, meetings and announcements for the decommissioning of the caCORE 3.2 API and reminders were sent out on:

- 7/9/2007 Announced caCORE SDK 4.0 and Migration Guide
- 9/10/2008 Announcement to distribution lists
- 10/23/2008 Announcement to distribution lists
- 11/10/2008 Discussed in caCORE Software Users Group Meeting
- 12/9/2009 Announcement caDSR 4.0 Released
- 1/5/2009 Announcement to distribution list
- 2/23/2009 Announcement to distribution lists
- 5/27/2009 Announcement to distribution lists. This announcement specifically noted that 'caCORE 3.2' applied to EVS, caDSR and caBIO
- 5/5/2009 Announcement to distribution list
- 6/15/2009 Announcement to distribution lists
- 6/15/2009 caGrid KC Forum
- 6/15/2009 Vocab KC Forum
- 6/20/2009 Wiki page created
- 6/22/2009 Announcement to distribution lists
- 6/22/2009 Wiki-based migration guides created for standalone service for caDSR and caBIO APIs. (The LexEVS 5.0 migration guide was created previously.)
- 6/29/2009 Announcement to distribution list
- 7/6/2009 Announcement to distribution lists
- 7/9/2009 Teleconference help to answer technical questions for customers
- 7/27/2009 News item posted to GForge Projects: caCORE
- 8/3/2009 News item posted to GForge Projects: caCORE API, caDSR Common, caDSR Database, caDSR Tool Utilities
- 8/4/2009 Announcement to distribution lists

Announcements on the dates above prior to June were posted to the following lists:

CADSR_USERS, CACORE_USERS-L, CAADAPTER_USERS-L, CACORE_SDK_USERS-L, CAGRID_USERS-L, NCIEVS-DEV-L, NCIEVS-L,
CACORE_DEVELOPERS, CABIO_DEVELOPERS, NCI NCICB Group, CADSR_SOFTWARE_DEVELOPERS, CATISSUE_SUITE,
CABIG_FACILITATORS, CAGRID_DEVELOPERS, CAMOD_DEVELOPERS-L

Announcements posted on dates beginning in June shifted to end user focus and were posted to the following lists: List CAADAPTER_USERS-L; CABIG_FACILITATORS; CABIO_USERS; NCIEVS-L; CAGRID_USERS-L; CADSR_USERS CACORE_SDK_USERS-L; CABIG_VCDE-L; CABIG_ARCH-L; NCI NCICB Group